

subtraction. In addition, the receiver must run before the transmitter in order to maintain the maximum latency at two buffer times. An event triggered at the time of the first sample of a buffer received during a time slice K-1, will be detected during processing in slice K. The answer may appear as the first sample of the buffer transmitted during slice K+1. Thus, if the transmitter had run before the receiver, then the event might only have been responded to in the first sample of the buffer transmitted in slice K+2, making the latency three buffer times.

Therefore, echo canceler processing on delayed transmitter data is performed first (step 70). Then receiver processing is performed on the difference between the received samples from time slice K-1 and the samples generated by the echo canceler process in slice K (step 72). Finally, transmit processing is performed, generating a buffer full of samples to be transmitted during time slice K+1 (step 74) and stored in delay registers 35.

Thus, utilizing the buffer switching mechanism of the present invention, resistance to interrupt latency can be maximized. In the example provided above, buffers of size 256 at 8000 samples/sec yields 32 ms buffer times. Assuming thirty percent processing period gives a maximum interrupt latency of 22.4 ms, which provides a very large time margin. In addition, a side benefit of using long buffers is lowered CPU utilization in terms of lowered overhead enabling the CPU to perform other functions. The main benefit provided by the present invention is the ability of an NSP modem to conform to the strict time constraints of the higher bit rate modem standards (e.g., V.32 9600 bps) V.32bis 14.400 bps and V.34 28.800 bps).

In addition, if for any reason one of the modems requests a retrain process during a connection, the buffer size can be changed back to a short buffer size so that a retrain process can occur. At a later time, the buffer size is switched back to a larger buffer size.

While the invention has been described with respect to a limited number of embodiments, it will be appreciated that many variations, modifications and other applications of the invention may be made.

What is claimed is:

Please cancel claims 1 - 12.

**1.** A method, in a communications system, of achieving a balance between processing response time, on one hand, and robustness to interrupt latency and processor implementation overhead, on the other hand, said method comprising of the steps of:

utilizing sample buffers having a first buffer size when it is desired to optimize said communication system so as to have quick processing response times;  
utilizing sample buffers having a second buffer size when it is desired to optimize said communication system so as to be robust to interrupt latency and to have low processor implementation overhead; and  
providing switching means enabling said communication system to dynamically switch between using said buffers having a first buffer size and said buffers having a second buffer size.

2. The method according to claim 1, wherein the size of said sample buffers is coherently switched without any loss of data.

3. The method according to claim 1, wherein said second buffer size is greater than said first buffer size.

4. The method according to claim 1, wherein the size of said sample buffer is switched to said first buffer size when the modem connection is reinitialized or restarted.

5. The method according to claim 1, wherein the size of said sample buffer is switched to said first buffer size when

a retrain sequence has been initialized, wherein said communication system implements an International Telecommunication Union standard chosen from the group of V.32, V.32 bis and V.34.

6. A system, in a communications system, for achieving a balance between processing response time, on one hand, and robustness to interrupt latency and processor implementation overhead, on the other hand, said system comprising:

means for utilizing sample buffers having a first buffer size when it is desired to optimize said communication system so as to have quick processing response times;

means for utilizing sample buffers having a second buffer size when it is desired to optimize said communication system so as to be robust to interrupt latency and to have low processor implementation overhead; and

switching means enabling said communication system to dynamically switch between using said buffers having a first buffer size and said buffers having a second buffer size.

7. The system according to claim 6, wherein the size of said sample buffers is coherently switched without any loss of data.

8. The system according to claim 1, wherein said second buffer size is greater than said first buffer size.

9. The system according to claim 6, wherein the size of said sample buffer is switched to said first buffer size when the modem connection is reinitialized or restarted.

10. The system according to claim 6, wherein the size of said sample buffer is switched to said first buffer size when a retrain sequence has been initialized, wherein said communication system implements an International Telecommunication Union standard chosen from the group of V.32, V.32 bis and V.34.

11. A method, in a communications system, of achieving a balance between processing response time, on one hand, and robustness to interrupt latency and processor implementation overhead, on the other hand, said communication

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system including a receiver, transmitter and associated receive sample buffer and transmit sample buffer, wherein sample processing is divided into time slices within said communication system, said method comprising of the steps

5 of:

utilizing receive and transmit sample buffers having a first buffer size L1 when it is desired to optimize said communication system so as to have quick processing response times;

10

utilizing receive and transmit sample buffers having a second buffer size L2 when it is desired to optimize said communication system so as to be robust to interrupt latency and to have low processor implementation overhead;

15

providing switching means enabling said communication system to dynamically switch between using said transmit and receive sample buffers having a size L1 and a size L2;

20

making a determination to switch buffer sizes before the activation of said transmitter during time slice N;

processing a receive buffer of length L1 and a transmit buffer of length L1 during time slice N-1;

25

processing a receive buffer of length L1 and a transmit buffer of length L2 during time slice N;

processing a receive buffer of length L1 and a transmit buffer of length L2 during time slice N+1; and

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processing a receive buffer of length L2 and a transmit buffer of length L2 during time slice N+2 and during time slices thereafter until such decision to switch buffer sizes.

12. The method according to claim 11, wherein the size of said transmit and receive sample buffers is coherently switched without any loss of data.

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Please add new claims 13-52:

13. A method achieving a balance between response time system latency, said communication system including a receiver, transmitter and associated receive sample buffer and transmit sample buffer, wherein sample processing is divided into time slices within said communication system, said method comprising of the steps of:
- employing receive and transmit sample buffers having a first buffer size L1 capable of quick response times;
- employing receive and transmit sample buffers having a second buffer size L2 capable of accommodating system latency;
- employing a switching device enabling said communication system to dynamically switch between using said transmit and receive sample buffers having a size L1 and a size L2;
- making a determination to switch buffer sizes before the activation of said transmitter during time slice N;

45                    processing a receive buffer of  
                      length L1 and a  
                      transmit buffer of  
                      length L1 during time  
                      slice N-1;

50                    processing a receive buffer of  
                      length L1 and a  
                      transmit buffer of  
                      length L2 during time  
                      slice N;

55                    processing a receive buffer of  
                      length L1 and a  
                      transmit buffer of  
                      length L2 during time  
                      slice N+1; and

60                    processing a receive buffer of  
                      length L2 and a  
                      transmit buffer of  
                      length L2 during time  
65                    slice N+2 and during  
                      time slices thereafter  
                      until such decision to  
                      switch buffer sizes.

14. The method of claim 13,  
wherein the size of said transmit and  
receive sample buffers is coherently  
switched without any loss of data.

15. A system for achieving a  
balance between response time and  
system latency in a communication  
system, said system comprising:

5                    sample buffers having a first  
                      buffer size capable of  
                      quick response times;

10                   sample buffers having a  
                      second buffer size  
                      capable of  
                      accommodating  
                      system latency; and

15

a switching device capable of  
dynamically  
switching between the  
use of said buffers  
20 having a first buffer  
size and said buffers  
having a second  
buffer size.

16. The system of claim 15, wherein  
said second buffer size is robust so  
as to accommodate system latency.

17. The system of claim 15,  
wherein said sample buffers are  
maintained in a memory.

18. The system of claim 15,  
wherein said sample buffers are  
maintained in physical buffers.

19. The system of claim 15,  
wherein said dynamic switching is  
performed in response to  
5 communication system operating  
requirements.

20. The system of claim 15,  
wherein said system latency  
comprises interrupt latency.

21. The system of claim 15,  
wherein said system latency  
comprises bus latency.

22. The system of claim 15,  
wherein said system latency  
comprises both interrupt latency and  
bus latency.

23. The system of claim 15, wherein  
the size of said sample buffers is  
coherently switched without any loss  
of data.

24. The system of claim 15, wherein said second buffer size is greater than said first buffer size.

5 25. The system of claim 15, wherein the size of said sample buffer is switched to said first buffer size when a modem connection is reinitialized or restarted.

5 26. The system of claim 15, wherein the size of said sample buffer is switched to said first buffer size when a retrain sequence has been initialized, wherein said communication system implements an International Telecommunication Union standard chosen from the group of V.32, V.32 bis and V.34.

5 27. A system for achieving a balance between response time and system latency in a communication system, said system comprising of the steps of:

10 sample buffers having a first buffer size capable of quick response times;

15 sample buffers having a second buffer size that is robust so as to accommodate system latency; and

20 a switching device capable of dynamically switching between the use of said buffers having a first buffer size and said buffers having a second buffer size.

28. A system for achieving a balance between response time and system latency in a communication system, said system comprising:

5                    a sample buffer that is variable in size, wherein the sample buffer has a first  
10                   buffer size capable of quick response times and a second buffer size capable of  
15                   accommodating system latency; and

20                   a switching device capable of dynamically switching between said first buffer size and said second buffer size of the sample buffer.

29. A machine readable medium containing executable instructions which, when executed by a machine, causes the machine to perform the steps of a method for achieving a balance between response time and system latency in a communication system, the method comprising:

5                   employing sample buffers having a first buffer size capable of quick response times;

10                   employing sample buffers having a second buffer size capable of accommodating  
15                   system latency; and

20                   dynamically switching between the use of



said buffers having a first buffer size and said buffers having a second buffer size.

30. The medium of claim 29, wherein said second buffer size is robust so as to accommodate system latency.

5 31. The medium of claim 29, wherein said dynamic switching is performed in response to communication system operating requirements.

32. The medium of claim 29, wherein said system latency comprises interrupt latency.

33. The medium of claim 29, wherein said system latency comprises bus latency.

34. The medium of claim 29, wherein said system latency comprises both interrupt latency and bus latency.

35. The medium of claim 29, wherein the size of said sample buffers is coherently switched without any loss of data.

36. The medium of claim 29, wherein said second buffer size is greater than said first buffer size.

5 37. The medium of claim 29, wherein the size of said sample buffer is switched to said first buffer size when a modem connection is reinitialized or restarted.

38. The medium of claim 29, wherein the size of said sample

5 buffer is switched to said first buffer  
size when a retrain sequence has  
been initialized, wherein said  
communication system implements  
an International Telecommunication  
Union standard chosen from the  
group of V.32, V.32 bis and V.34.

5 39. A machine readable medium  
containing executable instructions which,  
when executed by a machine, causes the  
machine to perform the steps of a method  
for achieving a balance between response  
time and system latency in a  
communication system, the method  
comprising:

10 employing sample buffers  
having a first buffer  
size capable of quick  
response times;

15 employing sample buffers  
having a second  
buffer size that is  
robust so as to  
accommodate system  
20 latency in said  
communication  
system; and

25 employing a switching device  
capable of  
dynamically  
switching between the  
use of said buffers  
having a first buffer  
30 size and said buffers  
having a second  
buffer size.

5 40. A machine readable medium  
containing executable instructions which,  
when executed by a machine, causes the  
machine to perform the steps of a method  
for achieving a balance between response

time and system latency in a communication system, the method comprising:

10        employing a sample buffer  
          that is variable in size,  
          wherein said sample  
          buffer has a first  
15        buffer size capable of  
          quick response times  
          and a second buffer  
          size capable of  
          accommodating  
20        system latency; and

20        employing a switching device  
          capable of  
          dynamically  
          switching between  
25        said first buffer size  
          and said second  
          buffer size of said  
          sample buffer.

41. A method of achieving a balance between response time and system latency in a communication system, said method comprising:

5        employing sample buffers  
          having a first buffer  
          size capable of quick  
          response times;

10        employing sample buffers  
          having a second  
          buffer size capable of  
          accommodating  
15        system latency; and

employing a switching device  
          capable of  
          dynamically  
20        switching between  
          said buffers having a  
          first buffer size and

said buffers having a  
second buffer size.

42. The method of claim 41,  
wherein said second buffer size is  
robust so as to accommodate system  
latency.

5 43. The method of claim 41,  
wherein said dynamic switching is  
performed in response to  
communication system operating  
requirements.

44. The method of claim 41,  
wherein said system latency  
comprises interrupt latency.

45. The method of claim 41,  
wherein said system latency  
comprises bus latency.

46. The method of claim 41,  
wherein said system latency  
comprises both interrupt latency and  
bus latency.

47. The method of claim 41,  
wherein the size of said sample  
buffers is coherently switched  
without any loss of data.

48. The method of claim 41,  
wherein said second buffer size is  
greater than said first buffer size.

5 49. The method of claim 41,  
wherein the size of said sample  
buffer is switched to said first buffer  
size when a modem connection is  
reinitialized or restarted.

50. The method of claim 41,  
wherein the size of said sample  
buffer is switched to said first buffer  
size when a retrain sequence has

5    been initialized, wherein said  
communication system implements  
an International Telecommunication  
Union standard chosen from the  
group of V.32, V.32 bis and V.34.

51. A method of achieving a  
balance between response time and  
system latency in a communication  
system, said method comprising:

5                    employing sample buffers  
                     having a first buffer  
                     size capable of quick  
                     response times;

10                   employing sample buffers  
                     having a second  
                     buffer size that is  
                     robust so as to  
15                   accommodate system  
                     latency in said  
                     communication  
                     system; and

20                   employing a switching device  
                     capable of  
                     dynamically  
                     switching between  
                     said buffers having a  
25                   first buffer size and  
                     said buffers having a  
                     second buffer size.

52. A method of achieving a  
balance between response time and  
system latency in a communication  
system, said method comprising:

5                   employing a sample buffer  
                     that is variable in size,  
                     wherein said sample  
                     buffer has a first  
10                   buffer size capable of  
                     quick response times  
                     and a second buffer

15                    size capable of  
                      accommodating  
                      system latency; and

20                    employing a switching device  
                      capable of  
                      dynamically  
                      switching between  
                      said buffers having a  
                      first buffer size and  
                      said buffers having a  
                      second buffer size.